

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

- Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A homogeneous, amorphous cogel catalyst support comprising a modifying-metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide.
- Claim 2 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.
- Claim 3 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.
- Claim 4 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 3, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.
- Claim 5 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 4, wherein the base-metal oxide is alumina and the modifying-metal-oxide is silica.
- Claim 6 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.

- Claim 7 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 90 wt% to about 99 wt% alumina.
- Claim 8 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, which has been prepared by a cogel process.
- Claim 9 (Previously Amended) A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina cogel catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.
- Claim 10 (Cancelled)
- Claim 11 (Cancelled)
- Claim 12 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio is from about 1.0.
- Claim 13 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.
- Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina cogel catalyst support exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having a broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.

- Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the full line width is 50% greater than the line width of unmodified alumina when measured at half height.
- Claim 16 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the intensity is at least 25% lower than for the unmodified alumina.
- Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A catalyst for the Fischer-Tropsch process comprising a homogeneous, amorphous cogel catalyst support comprising a modifying- metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide and a catalytically active Group VIII metal.
- Claim 18 (Original) A catalyst according to claim 17, further comprising at least one promoter.
- Claim 19 (Original) A catalyst according to claim 17, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof, the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.

- Claim 20 (Previously Amended) A catalyst according to claim 19, wherein the catalytically active Group VIII metal is selected from the group consisting of cobalt, iron and mixture thereof.
- Claim 21 (New) A homogeneous, amorphous catalyst support comprising a modifying-metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, in which the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.6 to about 1.3, exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide and having better resistance to acid than the base-metal oxide.
- Claim 22 (New) A catalyst support according to claim 21, wherein the base-metal oxide is alumina and the modifying metal oxide is silica.
- Claim 23 (New) A catalyst support according to claim 22, wherein the catalyst support comprises from 90 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.
- Claim 24 (New) A catalyst support according to claim 22, wherein the catalyst support comprise from 95 wt% to 99.75 wt% alumina.
- Claim 25 (New) A catalyst support according to claim 21, wherein the Surface to Bulk ratio is from 0.9 to 1.1.
- Claim 26 (New) A method of producing a cogel catalyst support from a base-metal oxide, said support having better resistance to acid than the base-metal oxide comprising homogeneously distributing a

modifying-metal oxide throughout the base-metal oxide during preparation of a cogel mixture of the base-metal oxide and the modifying-metal oxide.

- Claim 27 (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.
- Claim 28 (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.
- Claim 29 (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.
- Claim 30 (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 90 wt% to about 99 wt% alumina.